



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

April 11, 2013

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to enter into a lease of pasture on its Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA). The proposed lease between FWP and Two Creek Ranch would generally exchange grazing or hay on 1,050 acres of primarily non-native pasture on the BCWMA, in exchange for implementation of a rest-rotation grazing system on 1,000 acres of privately managed native grasslands that provide important elk winter forage. Public hunting access would be allowed on the private land involved in the proposed lease. The lease would be effective from May 15, 2013 to August 31, 2018.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "Public Notices," beginning April 10). Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 3, 2013.

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land leases, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its May 9th meeting in Helena.

Sincerely,

Vivaca Crowser
Acting Regional Supervisor

ML/sr